

Message Text

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SUBJ: U.S.-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:
GANLEY-GLIGA MEETING FEBRUARY 20

1. SUMMARY: DURING FEBRUARY 20 CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VASILE GLIGA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY STRESSED U.S. CONCERN ABOUT CURRENT DECLINE IN BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA AND HOPED CURRENT MID-TERM REVIEW WOULD LEAD TO RATIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION. GLIGA DESCRIBED ROMANIAN CONCERNS AND DESIRES FOR CONTINUING COOPERATION AGAINST BACKGROUND OF HIS COUNTRY'S REALITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER GLIGA, WELCOME, GANLEY, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, SAID FROM PERSPECTIVE OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S.-ROMANIAN SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FROM INCEPTION HE PARTICULARLY REGRETTED GRADUAL DECLINE OVER PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS IN EXCHANGES AND ACTIVITIES AND RISE IN DIFFICULTIES. THIS WAS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM SITUATION IN 1973-74 WHEN OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION WAS A MODEL FOR AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS WITH A COMMUNIST COUNTRY. THE U.S. RECOGNIZED THAT ROMANIA'S PRIORITIES HAD CHANGED, WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT RELATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND WE APPRECIATED WHT GOVERNMENT'S CONCERNS ABOUT SCIENTISTS

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WHO DEFECTED. HOWEVER, THE U.S. WISHED TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES IN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM WHICH ACCOMMODATED OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. MEANWHILE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPLEMENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE PRESENT PROGRAM SO AS NOT TO LOSE THE CENTRAL MOMENTUM AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE INTEREST OF PARTICIPATING U.S. AGENCIES. THERE WERE OF COURSE CERTAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION THAT U.S. MUST RULE OUT,

INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, ADVANCED ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN A FOREIGN AID SENSE. HOWEVER, WE CAN DO PRACTICAL PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND BEST COURSE WOULD BE GRADUAL, PROGRESSIVE CHANGES IN CURRENT PROGRAM.

3. GLIGA SAID HE APPRECIATED SUCH A FRANK AND OPEN APPROACH TO SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. HE KNEW THAT GANLEY AS PIONEER IN THE JOINT EFFORT APPRECIATED ROMANIA'S DECISION TO EMULATE U.S. WHICH WAS AMONG FIRST NATIONS TO MAKE LINK BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT. ROMANIA WAS STILL IN MELDING PROCESS AND GOVERNMENT HAD FOUND IT EASIER TO MAKE LAWS THAN TO CHANGE MENTALITY OF RESEARCHERS IN MAJOR EFFORT TO MOVE UP FROM STATUS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY. BECAUSE SCIENCE HAD CENTRAL ROLE IN THAT PROCESS, ROMANIA SOMETIMES WAS FORCED TO SEEK IMMEDIATE AND HASTY RESULTS. WE REALIZE NOW THAT OUR APPROACH MUST BE MORE MEASURED, SAID GLIGA, AND WE ASK THAT U.S. UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE OUR PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE HIGH PRIORITIES OF OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.

4. TURNING TO PROBLEM OF "BRAIN DRAIN" GLIGA SAID ROMANIA COULD NOT SPARE SCIENTISTS WHO DELAY THEIR RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RISING NUMBER OF DEFECTORS MADE GOVERNMENT WONDER WHETHER SUCH EXCHANGES WERE REALLY BENEFICIAL TO ROMANIA SINCE THE REGIME FOUND IT COULD NOT COUNT ON MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THOSE BENEFITING FROM THE EXCHANGE FOR ANY IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT. WHILE ROMANIA HAD TO CONSIDER DEFECTION PROBLEM, GLIGA FELT OVERALL AND T PROGRAM SHOWED MORE GOOD RESULTS THAN SHORTCOMINGS. HE HAD FEARED THAT U.S. WONDERED WHETHER ANY NEW PROGRAM WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT ROMANIA FELT WE MUST CONTINUE OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS, PLACING THEM ON MORE REALISTIC GROUNDS CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING SITUATION. U.S. IS NUMBER ONE IN S AND T AND ROMANIA WAS FAR FROM THAT POSITION. IN EVERY AREA OF OUR COOPERATION AND IN DEVISING NEW PROGRAM WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY ACTUAL NEEDS OF OUR SOCIETIES.

5. GANLEY SAID GLIGA'S DETAILED EXPOSITION CONFIRMED NOT ONLY THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BUT ROMANIA'S DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE COOPERATION AND FIND MEANS TO MAKE IT WORK UNDER NEW PRIORITIES AND NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND THAT CURRENT REVIEW PROCESS WOULD IDENTIFY MOST APPROPRIATE PATTERN OF ASSOCIATION.

6. FOREGOING WAS NOT SEEN BY DR. GANLEY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FEB. 21, AND HE MAY WISH TO AMPLIFY OR COMMENT ON THIS REPORT.

AGGREY

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